Formation of plans for water table

248. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that water table has fallen considerably in vast areas of the country;

(b) whether any contingency plans have been formulated to meet the resultant shortage of water availability for different purposes; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Fall in ground water levels during the period May, 1987 to May, 1988 has been recorded in certain parts of the country.

(b) and (c) Contingency plans included water harvesting, scientific source finding, and regulation of ground water over-exploitation. To alleviate problems of water shortage as a result of the severe drought of 1987 the Central Ground Water Board redeployed its rigs to supplement the efforts of State Governments.

Contribution of AFRICA fund

249. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount contributed by different countries to the AFRICA fund; and

(b) the precise purposes and the amount so far expended out of the Fund?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) AFRICA Fund has till todate received pledges in cash, kind and project assistance amounting to equivalent of approximately US $ 256 million, of which nearly US $ 1 million is in cash. The list of contributions is in Annexure. (*See* Appendix CXLVII Annexure No. 10). The public in India have separately contributed about Rs. 36 lakhs in cash and kind.

(b) India has pledged a contribution of Rs. 50 crores spread over a period of three years to the AFRICA Fund. The cost of the current projects under consideration is estimated to be around Rs. 36 crores. The details of the projects are given in Annexure (*See* Appendix CXLVII, Annexure No. 11)

Other donors to the AFRICA Fund are similarly involved in projects, supplies and technical assistance bilaterally with recipient countries and liberation movements in Southern Africa. Each donor is expected to submit a report to the AFRICA Fund Committee during its meeting at the level of Senior officials being held in Lima, Peru from 2-5 August, 1988. For the present precise information regarding utilization of contributions by other donor countries is not fully available.

Agreement with LTTE regarding Implementation of Indo-Sri Lanka Accord

250. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the LTTE in Sri Lanka have agreed for the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lankan accord and laying down their arms and thereby join the national mainstream in Sri Lanka; and

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken by Government about dispelling misgivings between LTTE and the Indian Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) The LTTE has gone back on the agreement to this effect. Government have kept discussions with the LTTE alive to persuade it to give up arms, support the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement and join the national main-stream in Sri Lanka.

(b) Government's position has been made very clear to the LTTE and there is no reason for any misgivings.